

Stone Warehouse
1 Mount Hope Avenue
Rochester
Monroe County
New York

HABS No. NY-5658

HABS
NY,
28-ROCH,
31-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5658

STONE WAREHOUSE

NY,
28-ROCH,31-

Location: 1 Mount Hope Avenue, at the northwest corner of Mount Hope Avenue and South Avenue, Rochester, Monroe County, New York

Present Owner: Rochester Urban Renewal Agency, 150 State Street, Rochester

Present Occupant and Present Use: Not in use. The immediate area is scheduled for clearance and redevelopment housing. (June, 1973)

Statement of Significance: The simple and functional facade of the second warehouse to be built in Rochester is a reminder of the city's beginnings along the Erie Canal.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1822.
2. Architect: John Gilbert.
3. Original and subsequent owners: "... a certain lot of land situated in Brighton, being lot No. 10 in the third division of lots in township 13 and the seventh range of towns on the Genesee River, containing thirty-two acres ..."

1822 Deed, May 17, 1822, Book 2, p. 262.
From: Joseph Tucker and James W. Robbins, Lenox, Berkshire County, Massachusetts,
To: Myron Holly of Lyons, Ontario County, New York.
For: \$1,600.00.

1828 Deed, July 8, 1828, Book 12, p. 351.
From: Myron Holly and Sally, his wife.
To: John Gilbert.
For: \$100.00.

"... parts of lot 10 (including lot 26 as designated in the Wilder and Phelps survey undertaken for Holly and Gilbert) ... including the stone ware house erected by Gilbert on said lot ..."

- 1833 Deed, October 30, 1833, Book 27, p. 556.
From: Seth Saxton.
To: John B. Elwood.
For: \$1.00.
It has been impossible to determine when Gilbert sold the property or when Saxton purchased it.
- 1837 Deed, October 6, 1837, Book 41, p. 463.
From: John B. Elwood.
To: Isaac R. Elwood.
For: \$3,000.00.
- 1838 Deed, June 7, 1838, Book 168, p. 26.
From: Isaac R. Elwood.
To: John B. Elwood.
For: \$3,000.00.
- 1863 Deed, April 1, 1863, Book 177, p. 70.
From: John B. Elwood.
To: Samuel N. Oothout.
For: \$3,000.00.
- 1889 Deed, March 12, 1889, Book 458, p. 267.
From: Samuel N. Oothout.
To: Edward Harris, counsellor at law.
For: \$50,000.00.
"... parcel ... with malt house ..."
- 1889 Deed, May 29, 1889, Book 458, p. 331.
From: Edward Harris.
To: Bartholomay Brewing Company.
"... land known as part of lot 26 in lot 10 ..."
- 1905 Deed, July 5, 1905, Book 715, p. 98.
From: Bartholomay Brewing Company.
To: Rochester Carting Company.
For: \$1.00.
- 1965 Deed, December 27, 1965, Book 3705, p. 202.
From: Rochester Carting Company.
To: Rochester Storage Warehouse.
For: \$1.00.
This deed lists that some property around the perimeter was sold to the city.
4. Builder or contractor: John Gilbert himself built the warehouse from stone quarried from the bed of the Genesee River.
5. Original plan: Unknown.

6. Alterations and additions: Extensive interior changes were made in 1838, when William Cheney converted the warehouse to a foundry. The structure was enlarged to seventy-five feet by one hundred and fifty feet in 1864, by Samuel Oothout. The elevator house at the southwest corner is a later addition.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Myron Holley was an enthusiastic supporter of the construction of the Erie Canal. In 1819, he secured passage of a bill to let the contracts for the canal construction east of Rochester. He and Gilbert then purchased the parcel at the proposed juncture of the canal and a feeder servicing Genesee River traffic. The warehouse was constructed and another portion of the parcel was developed as a canal boat basin for boats waiting to be loaded or waiting to cross the Broad Street aqueduct. As a foundry between 1838-46, the building was fitted with an engine and boiler brought from Albany by canal. The first cooking stove in the area was cast by the foundry. In c. 1856, the warehouse was used for storage by a tile and pottery factory which was located just to the south. Under the ownership of Samuel Oothout, the building first was used for malt storage. In 1869, the entire brewing operation was moved to the warehouse.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, Office of Monroe County Clerk.

b. Secondary and published sources:

McIntosh, Prof. W. H. History of Monroe County,
New York. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts,
1876.

2. Likely sources not yet investigated: Records of the Canal Society.

Prepared by Kevin Patrick Harrington
Society for the Pre-
servation of Land-
marks in Western
New York
December 7, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: As one of the oldest commercial structures in Rochester, the Stone Warehouse is a reminder of the importance of the construction of the Erie Canal to the commercial interests of the city.
2. Condition of fabric: The foundations have settled, causing cracks in the exterior walls. The flooring in some parts has deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Ninety feet by one hundred and sixty-five feet; eight bay southeast facade, five bay east facade; four story original section, six story south section; irregular trapezoidal shape.
2. Foundations: The foundations are of dressed stone.
3. Wall construction: The random ashlar Medina sandstone walls have cast iron tie-bar plates marking the bay system on south and southeast walls. The later elevator tower is faced with shingles. The first story of the east facade has been replaced by a concrete retaining wall for grade adjustment approaching the newly constructed bridge.
4. Structural system, framing: The wood structural system of the c. 1822 section is composed of closely spaced twelve inch square wood columns with large wedge capitals. The later addition contains a metal structural system composed of nine inch iron beams manufactured by "Garnigie" (Carnegie?), seven inch square cast iron columns at the exterior walls and centered eight inch diameter cast iron columns,
5. Chimneys: There is a recent brick chimney.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: A round arched doorway on the east facade has a brick cap. A similar doorway is located at the north corner. Two service doorways on the first floor of the southeast facade have stone lintels. They are set with vertical boarded double leaf doors. Single doorways located at the

southeast corner of the first and third floors are similarly treated.

- b. Windows: All rectangular windows on the southeast facade have stone lintels and projecting sills. All are fitted with single light sashes. First floor windows have horizontal guard bars. Three circular windows in the fourth floor are framed with brick. The east wall is fitted with double hung windows with two over two and six over six light sashes.
7. Roof: The roof is slightly pitched. There is no cornice on the east facade. A simple projecting cornice is located on the original section of the southeast facade. A molded and bracketed stone cornice is located on the southeast facade of the 1864 west addition. The flat roofed elevator tower has a band cornice.
8. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The open floors contain enclosed elevator shafts at the south-southeast corner and centered at the southeast corner. A stair well is located at the probable north wall of the original forty foot wide structure, which is accessible from the east entrance. Other stairwells are located in the original south-southeast and northwest corners. A multi-story shed, twenty-two feet by one hundred and thirty-five feet, has been attached to the west facade.
2. Stairways: All interior stairways are wood. There is an exterior metal fire escape located on the southeast facade.
3. Flooring: The wood planking varies in width. Some floors are double to accommodate the heavy storage loads.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The wood framing system and stone walls are exposed.
5. Doorways and doors: Vertical boarded wood doors are set in exposed frames.
6. Special decorative features: None.
7. Hardware: None of note.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Originally the warehouse was not heated. Now only the north portion of office space is heated.
- b. Lighting: Limited contemporary fixtures have been installed.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The dominant structure at the intersection of Mount Hope and South Avenues, this building faces east and southeast. There is no landscaping.
2. Walks: The structure is set adjacent to the sidewalk. Delivery access is provided to the west shed.

Prepared by George F. Swatt
Society For the Pre-
servation of Land-
marks in Western
New York
September, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This recording project of twenty-six selections of historical and architecturally significant Rochester structures was undertaken in 1966, by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, Inc., Mrs. Patrick Harrington, Executive Director, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, James C. Massey, Chief. The project was under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Senior Historian. Architectural and historical descriptions were contributed by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, Inc. General photographic documentation was undertaken by Hans Padelt, Senior Engineer, Graflex, on a contractual basis with the Historic American Buildings Survey. The final documentation and editing was done by Susan R. Slade in 1978, for transmittal to the Library of Congress and the impending publication of the Historic American Buildings Survey New York State catalogue.